# Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine

# Site Screen Report

This form is for use at the site of abandoned uranium mines (AUM) located on Navajo Nation lands. Applicable sites include all mine and mine features that have or have not undergone reclamation by the Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program, including features, adits, pits and waste piles. Applicable sites also include all AUM sites listed in the USEPA CERCLIS database, all sites listed in the 2008 AUM GIS Report issued by USACOE and USEPA, all AUM sites on allotment lands associated with the Navajo Nation, and any and all AUM sites not listed in any database located on Navajo lands. Reconnaissance of any sites located on lands adjacent to Navajo lands that may be impacting Navajo lands will need to be coordinated with the authorities appropriate to those lands.

The purpose of the form is to ascertain the status and location of the identified AUM site, and record all immediate site information associated with the mine site. Decisions and recommendations on what additional steps are needed will be provided on a separate document.

# **Montezuma Creek AUM Site**

Navajo AUM Northern Region

Prepared by:

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Contract: W91238-06-F-0083

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Part I	Site Identification	on, Location	and Status		
Site Names an	nd ID numbers a	s applicable			
Mine ID:	112				
Map ID:	N3				
CERCLIS:	NNN000908982				
Navajo Aban	doned Mine Lan	d Reclamation	on Program: NA	<b>x</b> -0229	
Local name /	Aliases: None				
Chapter and	local area: Aneth	n Chapter			
County: San	Juan St	tate: Utah			
Lat/Long: 37	7.258209918 N / -	109.2649942	69 W		
Nearby road	and highway: H	lighway 162	<b>Local Post Office</b>	: Aneth, U	T
Surface Land below	Status: check or	ne or more a	nd provide owner	rship and c	ontact information
Tribal Trust Private Bureau of La State			Public lands Tribal Fee Land Allotment Fee land		
Subsurface M	Iineral Rights:				
No informatio	n on subsurface m	nineral rights	ownership was for	und in the E	PA/AUM Database.
Claim and op	erator informati	ion:			
	surface land status ation was identifie			and. No othe	er historical ownership
Number of re	sidential structu	res within 20	00 feet of mine:	None	
Estimated vol	lume of mine was	ste onsite: 2	$20 \text{ yd}^3$		

### Part II Summary of radiological readings

#### **Highest gamma radiation measurement:**

999,960 counts per minute (cpm)

#### Describe any other radiological measurements:

A total of 2,164 gamma radiation measurements were collected from the mine site, ranging from 5,444 cpm to 999,960 cpm. Measurements collected in the vicinity of the waste debris were found at levels up to approximately 1,000,000 cpm (the maximum gamma radiation level the equipment can detect). The measurements are represented in Figures 1 and 2.

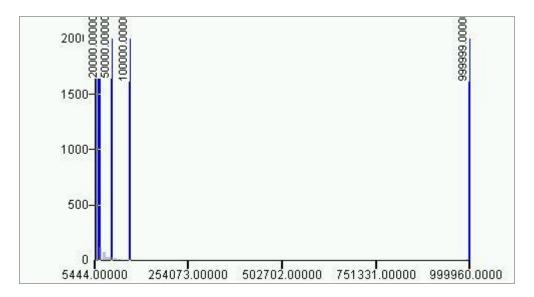
## **Background Locations**

**Average background =** 8,853 cpm

#1 8,853 cpm

#### **Distribution Chart and Statistics:**

The following chart and statistics were generated by ESRI ArcGIS 9.3.1, and show the general distribution of the site gamma radiation measurements. The horizontal X axis represents the gamma radiation reading levels in cpm (lowest levels to the left). The vertical Y axis represents the frequency of each gamma radiation level.



 Count:
 2164

 Minimum:
 5444,0000

 Maximum:
 999960,0000

 Sum:
 51482914,0000

 Mean:
 23790,62569

 Median:
 11717,50000

 Standard Deviation:
 84844,89335

#### Part III Status of Reclamation and Mine Waste

The following information was obtained from the Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program (NAMLRP) Point Features Database:

NAMLRP Status of the mine site: Reclaimed: Yes Waste Pile onsite: No

**NAMLRP Project Number:** NA-0229

NAMLRP Mine features: 1 Portal

The following information was obtained from field observations collected during the 2010 site screening:

Provide description and status of all mine sites and features at site. Include all waste piles, adits, pits and other features, and indicate whether they are open, closed, covered, capped, buried or unreclaimed. Indicate approximate size, shape and extent, including description of any reclamation caps. Note condition of all caps.

Observed	reclamation	work and	ctatuc.
COUNCI VCU	i cciainauvii	wui K anu	Status.

#### **Adits**

None

#### **Waste Piles**

Small waste pile approx 20 yd<sup>3</sup> at eastern cut

#### **Pits**

None

#### **Shafts**

None

#### **Other Debris and Mine Features**

2 small cuts with dirt pushed against it

#### Part IV

#### **Site observations and Environs**

Observed Structures: list number of and describe human habitation status of structures at the following distances from mine:

**0 to 200 feet:** None

200 feet to 0.25 mile: None

Observed Public or commercial structure: list and describe all schools, clinics, Chapter Houses, places of business and any other structure used by members of the community at the following distances:

0 to 200 feet: None

200 feet to 0.25 mile: None

Levels measured around the perimeter(s) of the identified structure(s):

None

Observed water sources: list the number and type of wells and surface water sources that are potentially used for human consumption at the following distances from the mine:

**0 to 0.25 miles:** San Juan River approximately 200 feet S of site

0.25 miles to 4 miles: None

Sensitive environments: note and describe all sensitive environments located within visible range of the mine site, including: wetlands, endangered species, habitats and approximate locations of sites that may be under protection of the government of the Navajo Nation.

None

Known Site History: include information from interviews with Chapter officials and residents. Note information on mine ownership, type of mining operation, period of operation, known amount of production, and any other information as provided.

Montezuma Creek mine consists of an area of 9,628.1 m<sup>2</sup>. The mine was not identified as ever being operational. No other historical information or any additional ownership / lease information was identified in the EPA/AUM database.

Part V Response Action Summary

Site Name(s): Montezuma Creek Chapter: Aneth

**Decision Criteria** 

Is there an unreclaimed waste pile at the site? Yes

At what distance from the waste pile is the nearest residential structure located? None

At what distances from the waste pile are there potential drinking water sources? 200 feet

Is there a reclamation cap or sealed adit in place at the site? No

Is the cap/seal functionally intact? None

Is the cap/seal sufficiently degraded to create a concern about releases? None

At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic structure located? None

At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic drinking water source? None

**Summary of emergency response factors** 

None

**Summary hazard ranking system factors** 

None

**Summary of reclamation factors** 

Unreclaimed waste; 2 cuts

### Part VI Photos



Photo 1. Montezuma Creek site, Highway 162 and San Juan River in the distance



Photo 2. Montezuma Creek site



Photo 3. Montezuma Creek site, area of highest readings

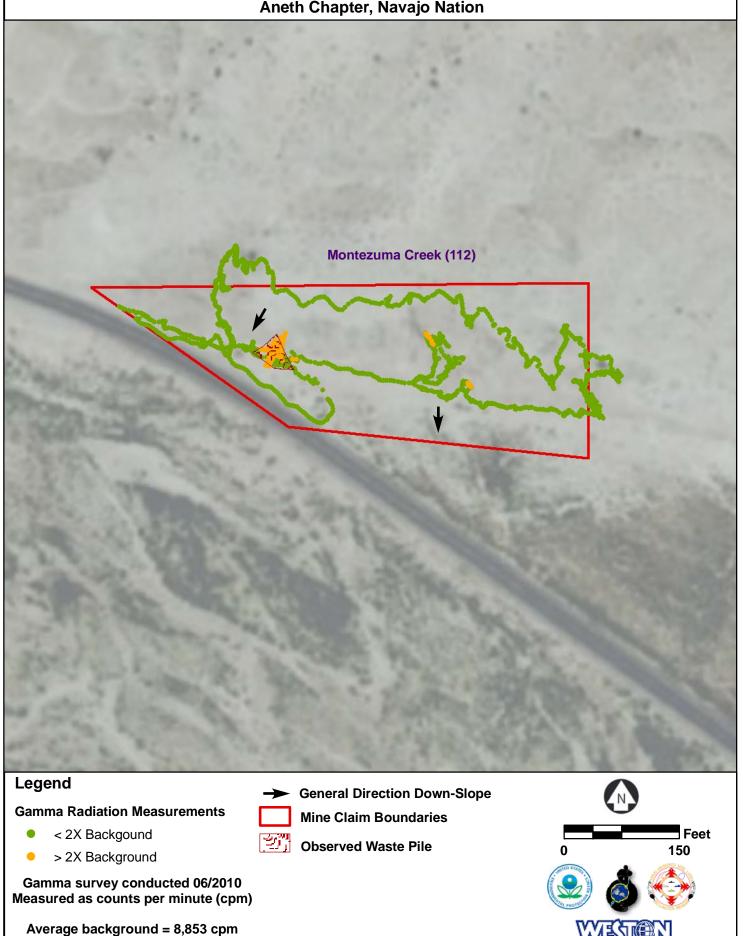


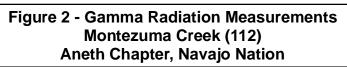
Photo 4. Montezuma Creek site

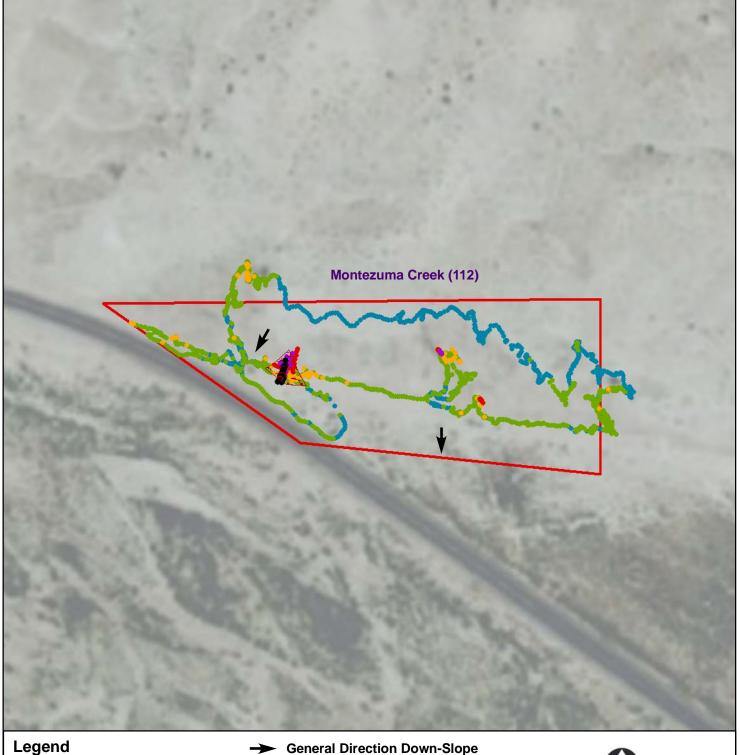
# Part VII Contacts Reports and Information

Name: <u>Stanley Edison (928) 871-6861</u>	
Eugene Esplain (928) 871-7331	
Title or official role (if any) Navajo EPA Superfund Program	
AddressPO Box 2946, Window Rock, AZ 86515	
Information provided <u>Lead Regulatory Agency</u>	
Name	_
Title or official role (if any)	
Telephone number	
Information provided	
Name	
	_
Name	_
Name Title or official role (if any)	_
Name  Title or official role (if any)  Telephone number	_
Name  Title or official role (if any)  Telephone number	_
Name Title or official role (if any) Telephone number Information provided	_
Name Title or official role (if any) Telephone number Information provided Name	_

Figure 1 - Gamma Radiation Measurements, Above Two Times Background
Montezuma Creek (112)
Aneth Chapter, Navajo Nation







#### **Gamma Radiation Measurements**

- 0 10,000
- 10,000 15,000
- 15,000 20,000
- 20,000 50,000
- 50,000 100,000
- > 100,000

**General Direction Down-Slope** Mine Claim Boundaries



**Observed Waste Pile** 

Gamma survey conducted 06/2010 Measured as counts per minute (cpm)

Average background 8,853 cpm

